

THE PASTOR AS SHEPHERD

Psalm 23

I. Introduction

- A. The Shepherd Psalms
 - 1. Psalm 22 – The Good Shepherd – Died for the Sheep
 - 2. Psalm 23 – The Great Shepherd – Provides for the Sheep
 - 3. Psalm 24 – The Chief Shepherd – Coming for the Sheep
- B. The shepherd describes the duty of the pastor
 - 1. Ephesians 4:11-12
 - 2. The word Pastor means shepherd

II. He Feeds the Flock

- A. The main ministry of the pastor is to feed the flock of God
 - 1. 1 Peter 5:2; 1 Timothy 5:17
 - 2. Preaching is imperative
 - a) Titus 1:3; 1 Corinthians 1:21; Romans 10:14
- B. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures
 - 1. Green pastures do not happen by chance
 - a) Pull sumps, Plow Deep, Prepare Soil, Plant the Seed
- C. He leadeth me beside the still water
 - 1. He stays true to the calm steady Word of God

III. He Fixes the Flock

- A. He Restoreth my soul
 - 1. Restore – return to starting point
 - 2. A sheep may fall on their back and become ‘cast’, usually from too much weight on them from excess wool. The shepherd will gently lift them up, help remove their weight and bring them back to the fold.
- B. Paths of Righteousness
 - 1. Person of righteousness – He will lead the way
 - 2. Path to righteousness – It is a journey, not instant results
 - a) New lambs cannot move as quickly as the older
 - 3. Purpose of righteousness – Because God is righteous
 - a) 1 John 1:5; 1 Peter 1:16
- C. The Valley of the Shadow of Death
 - 1. Thou art with me - He is there for the flock in the hard times.
 - 2. 1 John 3:16-19

IV. He Fashions the Flock

- A. Rod and Staff
 - 1. Rod used to ward off predators
 - 2. Staff to bring the sheep close to each other
- B. Prepareth a Table in the presence of mine enemies
 - 1. Table shows that you are Welcome
 - 2. Table shows Warmth
 - a) Share a meal
 - b) Share memories
 - c) Share matters of concern
 - 3. Table shows Willingness to prepare
- C. Anointeth mine head with oil
 - 1. Two fold meaning
 - a) Oil to drive away pests
 - b) Oil to anoint with power
 - c) Oil will reduce friction between each other
 - (1) Sheep can't butt heads when they have oil on their head

V. He has Fruit in the Flock

- A. Happiness - My cup runneth over
- B. Heaven's Blessing - Surely goodness and mercy
- C. Holiness - Dwell in the house